

JOE WILSON
2ND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
CHAIRMAN, PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

October 15, 2013

COUNTIES:

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(*PARTS OF)

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary, Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz,

The Department of Energy's Savannah River Site sits within the Second Congressional District of South Carolina which I have the honor of representing. As you are aware, given the lapse in funding as a result of the government shutdown, essential missions across the Site have been forced to operate via "carryover funds" from last fiscal year.

While various contracts had differing amounts of "carryover," we have already seen Savannah River Remediation's (SRR) run dry. As a result, 1,400 workers who have dedicated their lives to cleaning up some of the world's most dangerous liquid radioactive waste have been furloughed. Additionally, thousands more SRS employees who down-blend highly enriched uranium, process weapons grade plutonium, and play critical roles on the back-end waste treatment of these processes stand to be furloughed in the coming days if a lapse in appropriations continues.

I am hopeful and remain optimistic that a funding bill will be passed very soon so that all Site employees can get back to work. Despite what may transpire on Capitol Hill, it does not change the fact that the missions performed at SRS are vital to our nation's national security. These missions are only possible because of the Site's workforce who has exhibited dedication over the last six decades.

Recently, measures have been taken to ensure that Federal Employees working at the Site are back-paid for any financial losses associated with the shutdown. I strongly ask that you look at all alternatives within your power to ensure that the over 8,500 contracted employees at the Site are treated fairly as well.

The workers at SRS are the lifeblood of the Site. They have given of themselves in the name of protecting America. With that in mind, I ask that you exhaust all efforts to provide financial security and stability to these men and women who have never waived and continue to answer the nation's call.

Sincerely



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

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